



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q62174

Shinji KOYANO, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/732,705

Group Art Unit: 2644

Confirmation No.: 2917

Examiner: L. Grier

Filed: December 11, 2000

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 21, 2002, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith.

Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by previously-cited Hayase (US 5,191,619). Claims 1, 8, 11, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over previously-cited Noro et al. (US 4,969,195).

Claims 5-7 are allowed. Claims 2-4, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants traverse the rejections with the following comments.